NUMB. CVI.

THE PLAIN DEALER.

——*Dei quantum inſtar in illo!* —— VIDA.

FRIDAY, MARCH 26. 1725.

THE CZAR of *RUSSIA* is *dead!* ——I tell it not, as *News*; but I ſpeak it, with *Aſtoniſhment!* —— The *greateſt Spirit*, that ever glorified, and exalted, humane Nature, has ſtept, out of *Time*, into *Eternity:* And, yet, the *World* looks ſtill the *ſame!* The Sun ſhines not *paler!* ——The Seaſon advances, and blooms out, with its uſual *Regularity!* And every Thing (above, and below) wears the very Face, which it was *us'd* to wear, before the *Death* of This, almoſt *adorable*, Monarch, ſeem'd to call for a Night of univerſal *Sadneſs*, upon the Luſtre of *Created* Glory!

Alas! how inconſiderable a Wretch *am I, then!* ——What imports it, how a *Million* of *us, common Thinkers, live!* or where, or when, we *die!*——Since this *Godlike Eſtabliſher, and Adorner, of Empire*, can have *left* Nature as *unconcern'd* for him, as he *found* her: And the *World*, which ſeem'd to tremble, under the Weight of his *living* Preſſure, bears no *Changes* in her Form, or Motion, to diſtinguiſh ſuch a *Death*, as *His* was!

What a mortifying *Check* upon the Extravagance of humane *Ambition*, is the *Shortneſs* of that *Life*, which muſt give *Limits* to our nobleſt Purpoſes! —— We are ſure to *expire*, by the natural Courſe of our Days, before the *Event* of any *vaſt* Undertaking can have taught us, *to what End we labour'd.* —— While we meditate the *Superſtructure*, we *ſink*, and *die*, upon the *Foundation:* And leave Poſterity the Licenſe of *ſuppoſing*, *examining*, and *deciding upon*, our Schemes, and Actions, with a Latitude, which, could it be fore-known, would curb the Sallies of great Minds, and teach *Heroick Virtue* to be *aſham'd* of a Reward, ſo *precarious*, as *Fame*; and ſo dependant on the Diſpoſition of Souls, too *narrow* to take in *Purpoſes*, where *Events* are left imperfect.

How infinite had been the Progreſs of this prodigious Prince's Glory, could He have looked forward on ſuch a *Length* of *Life*, as was allotted to the Antient *Patriarchs!* ——But, in *this*, as in *all* Objects of Reflection, it is eaſy for us to trace the *Wiſdom* of *Almighty Power*, that proportions *Bleſſings* to *Neceſſities:* And neither grants, nor with-holds, *in vain*; but adapts, whatever *is*, to that which *ought to be.* ——In the early Ages of the World, when *Arts*, and *Qualities*, were yet unknown, there was a viſible Neceſſity, that Men ſhould *live*, thoſe many Hundred Years, which, now, we think of, with Amazement; becauſe their *Ignorance* required a frequent *Return* of *Obſervation*; and *Connexions* of *re-iterated Experience*, to eſtabliſh even the *Rudiments* of all that Variety of Knowledge, which ſerved their *Poſterity*, as *Scaffolding*, to ſtand upon; and, ſo (by lifting them, at once, the whole *Height*, which *themſelves* had climb'd to) made their *Buſineſs in Life* ſo much *leſs*, that Life requir'd to be, proportionably, *ſhorter.*

But, be this as it will, the moſt ſparkling Ornament of *Mortality*, is, now, become *immortal!* —— The Soul of PETER *the* GREAT, perhaps, aſſociates, and compares itſelf with Thoſe of CÆSAR, and of ALEXANDER! ——There is *Scope enough*, upon the Shoreleſs Ocean of *Eternity*, for all its Sails to ſpread themſelves; and make new Way, for Ever, into *Knowledge*, and *Diſcovery!* —— This Earth (however large a Part, of it, He honoured with His Influence) *reſtrain'd*, *impriſon'd*, and *held ſhort*, his Genius: —— He ſeem'd to ſtruggle, like a *cloſe cag'd Eagle*, for Enlargement more proportioned to the *Vaſtneſs* of his Qualities. ——*He* was, *truly*, GOD's VICEGERENT, and irradiated the *Human* Nature, with ſuch lively Beamings of the *Divine*, that, as *He obey'd*, He *reſembled*, the Deity! ——He could not, indeed, *create* Men; But He *new-moulded*, and *inſpir'd* them.

Detach'd, and *ſingle*, *Attributes*, of Virtues, which *met*, full, and perfect, in the *Ruſſian Monarch*'s Character, have eterniz'd the Memory of Antient *Heroes*; and ſwell'd Hiſtory, with their Praiſes: ——The Invention of *New Arts*, The Eſtabliſhment of *New Laws*, The Adornment, or Enrichment, of their Country; The reducing *Barbariſm*, into civiliz'd Society: The Encouragement of Learning, The Puniſhment of Oppreſſion; The Deliverance of their own Country, or, The Conqueſt of others: —— Each of theſe, *ſeparately*, has been thought ſufficient, in all Ages, to *make*, and *immortalize*, a HERO. —— What *Name*, then, ſhall the grateful World invent, and beſtow, to diſtinguiſh the *Poſſeſſor* of *more* than *all* theſe Virtues, *united!*

Let us conſider him, diſtinctly, and impartially, in the varied Lights, of His *Patience*, His *Application*, His *Wiſdom*, His *Juſtice*, His *Generoſity*, His aſpiring *Magnanimity*, and the intrepid Firmneſs of His invincible *Reſolution!* —— In every one of theſe Views, we ſhall ſee him *equal* with the nobleſt Spirits of Antiquity: And, in *ſome* of them, *ſuperior* to all, who have been called *Great*, before him.

What he has *done*, can either, *never* be *equall'd*, or, equall'd only by what he has *ſuffer'd!* —— To look back upon the *Beginning* of a Life of continued *Wonders!* What Dangers, Reproaches, Rebellions, and Ingratitude, did He not meet with *at home?* —— And (*abroad*) what *Inſults*, *Contempt*, and *Mortification?* ——Yet, ſuch was the ſtedfaſt Patience, and Moderation, of his Nature, that, inſtead of being inflam'd by His *Pride*, into raſh, and ſudden, Reſentment, He was only ſtimulated, by His *Reaſon*, into a generous Determination, to make Himſelf too *dreadful* for *Scorn*; and become the *Protector* of His *Deſpiſers.* ——That arrogant *Contempt*, which was ſhewn (by the late King of *Sweden*'s Permiſſion) to the *Czar*, when he paſs'd by *Riga*, in the Beginning of his *meaning Travels!* let it be weigh'd againſt the God-like *Forgiveneſs*, *Generoſity*, and noble *Compaſſion*, with which

which this very *Czar* interpos'd, afterwards, and (even to the Check of his own Victories) prevented the impending Ruin of that King of *Sweden*'s Hoſtile Country! — Let One of theſe Conſiderations, I ſay, be weigh'd againſt the other; and then, point out any Example, from Hiſtory, of ſo *amiable* a *Greatneſs!* ſo *ſincere*, and *ſweet*, a *Magnanimity!*

Let His *Application* be meaſured by the Succeſs of His unwearied Labours! — They, who look into *Ruſſia*, as it now *is*, and remember what it *was*, within *Twenty* Years paſt, will ſcarce believe themſelves free from the Influence of ſome ſupernatural *Enchantment*, when they ſee Cities, of *Sixty thouſand Houſes*, covering the Shoar, where (ſo lately) a few Fiſhermen dried their Nets! — When they behold a *Sea* filled with *His Ships of War*, whom they can remember, when He was not Maſter of *One ſingle Harbour*! — When they ſee *Nature* reduc'd by *Art*, to yield Occaſions, ſhe was moſt *repugnant* to! — Diſtant Seas taught to *incorporate!* Mountains forc'd to give Way to *Rivers*! New Engines, and Arts of War, as well offenſive, as defenſive! — New Cuſtoms! New Trades! New *Souls!* And a Face of univerſal Knowledge and Politeneſs, ſmiling in all Parts of a Land, which was ſo lately over-run with the darkeſt Ignorance, and Barbarity! — And, when they ſhall be told, That all theſe aſtoniſhing Changes, are the mere Effects of *One* Man's prodigious, and unbounded, Mind, what, leſs, can they ſay, in Anſwer, than, That *ſuch a Man* had been a *God*, could His *Body* have been rendered, but as *immortal*, as His *Fame* is?

Was there an *Oppreſſor*, in *Europe*, whom His Reſolution did not mortify? or an *injur'd*, or *afflicted*, *Prince*, whom His Generoſity did not *pity?* The Wings of His aſpiring *Eagle*, ſhadow'd both Extreams of the *Chriſtian World:* And the *Turks* look'd, with Horror, on the Vengeance, which they ſaw ſo *near* them. — And, in this only Particular, I am ſorry to obſerve, that the Author of the NORTHERN STAR, was leſs a *Prophet*, than he imagin'd. — *Death* intercepted the glorious Race, when the *Goal* was juſt in View, and left the GREEKS not, *yet*, ſo *happy*, as that Writer had foretold them.

Grecia's *loſt Fame ſhall be* reſtor'd, *by* Thee,
O Monarch! — *born, to* ſet an EMPIRE free!
'Twill be — *Prophetick* Greece *re-hopes* Her own:
And hails Her Cæſar, *on the* Ruſſian *Throne.*
ATHENS *again, ſhall* teach — CORINTH aſpire:
And THEBAN *Breaſts glow with* rekindling *Fire!*
Once more, Byzantium, *deſtin'd, long, to* ſhine,
Shall rear *the ruin'd Name of* CONSTANTINE.

But, that I may make the Author of the Poem ſome Atonement for the *falſe* Prophecy I have charg'd him with, in the above-cited Verſes, I acknowledge, that he was more *truly* a *Prophet*, in the *Czar*'s Attempt upon *Perſia*, by Way of the *Caſpian Sea:* — As alſo in the preſent Deſign of *diſcovering the North-East Paſſage:* Nothing of which had been heard of, 'till long after that Poem was written: The Firſt Edition of which, was publiſhed in the Year 1716.

The Virgin Caſpian *this bold Lover* woo's,
Nor vainly, *for her envied Favour ſues:*
In Secret, won, ſhe has her Love *confeſs'd,*
And giv'n him Leave to wander o'er her Breaſt.
Perſia's *heap'd Wealth* ſhall her vaſt Portion be;
And Eaſtern Kings, *ſhall give* her Lord *the Knee.*

Zembla's *high Cliffs,* — *Eternal* Hoards *of* Froſt!
Where proud Diſcovery *has, ſo oft, been* loſt,
Thro' all the Ages of the World, 'till now,
Have check'd *the* Keels, *which would thoſe Oceans plow:*
Reſerv'd by Fate, and for Thy Reign *deſign'd,*
Thy piercing Eye, ſhall the wiſh'd Paſſage find;
Or, to the Weſtern *World, the* Eaſtern join,
And ſee the Profit, *and the* Glory, THINE!

I perceive, by the Advertiſements, that a Third Edition of this Poem is about to be publiſh'd. It is needleſs, therefore, to quote more of it, to the Purpoſe mentioned: But I will take the Liberty, however, of concluding my Paper with the End of it, becauſe it *ſpeaks*, but what I *mean*, when I meditate the Praiſe of that great Monarch, whom I have the Honour to be writing of.

Thou! Ruſſian Star! *That mak'ſt the* Pole *outſhine*
The torrid Brightneſs of the Burning Line!
Drawn by thy beamy *Worth, I,* ſtill, *would* gaze,
But my Eyes ake, *beneath th'* oppreſſive *Blaze.*
Deſcend, raſh Muſe, from the bold Theme retire;
Thy Fall *were dang'rous, if Thy* Flight *were* higher.
Forbear, Great Prince! *nor with ſuch* Swiftneſs, BLESS,
Shook by our Fears, *we wiſh Thy Glory* leſs:
Leſt Heav'n *ſhould ſcarce Thy now-mourn'd Abſence* bear,
When Earth *yields no* new *Labour, worth Thy Care.*

Hard the Deciſion, Which *moſt Glory won,*
Thy Actions? *or the* Speed, *with which they're* done?
When Rome, *that glitt'ring, that immortal, Name!*
Aſpir'd to Rule, *and panted after* Fame;
Age, copying Age, ſtrove, with progreſſive *Will,*
To puſh the ſame Deſign, *with equal Skill;*
And, when Eight hundred *lab'ring* Years *were paſt,*
The late propitious Fortune *ſmil'd, at laſt.* —
Not ſuch ſlow *Riſe, O Prince! Thy* Ruſſia *fears;*
Thou *ſeeſt not* Glory, *through ſuch* Depth *of* Years!
At once reſolv'd, *at once the Columns* riſe,
Which lift Thy dreadful Fabrick, *to the* Skies!
Forms, *and* Degrees, *let* Earth-born *Spirits need,*
Thy *Soul,* excentric, *moves with* inbred *Speed:*
Makes Nature ſhake; — *and raiſes, in a* Day,
What, with leſs Eaſe, *in* Ages *ſhall* decay!

So, when young Time, *in Chains,* Exiſtence *kept,* —
And huddled Nature, *in dark* Chaos, *ſlept;*
Th' Eternal Word, *to ſet* Diſtinction *free,*
But ſpoke th' Almighty Fiat — LET THERE BE!
Millions of Ways, the ſtarting Atoms *flew:*
Like *cling to* Like; *and ſudden* Order *grew.*
Struggling in Clouds, a while, Confuſion *lay;*
Then dy'd, *at once* — *and* loſt *itſelf in* Day.

ADVERTISEMENT.

This Day is Publiſhed,

MAHOMETISM EXPLAINED. Vol. II. Containing, A Continuation of the Life of *Abdallah*, the *Impoſtor*'s Father; *Mahomet*'s Birth, Qualities, Journey to Heaven, great Deeds, Sickneſs, Death, and Burial: with Encomiums on him, his *Alcoran*, &c. A very remarkable Deſcription of the *Terrors* of the *Laſt Day*. The Faſts, Feſtivals, Ceremonies, &c. of the *Muſſulmans*; and many curious Particulars, not to be met with in *European* Writers. Written *Anno Domini* 1603, in *Spaniſh*, intermixed with *Arabick* (for the Inſtruction and Edification of his *Moriſco* Brethren, then in *Spain*) By *Mahomet Rabadan*, an *Aragonian Moor*. Made *Engliſh* (and illuſtrated with Notes) from the Original *M. S.* now in the Library of the Right Honourable the Earl of *Oxford*; By Mr. *J. Morgan*. Whereunto are prefixed, Remarks on the Work; with ſome entertaining Accounts of ſeveral Cuſtoms of the modern *Numidians*, and other *Mahometans*, never treated of before. There are alſo ſubjoin'd, A large and authentick Narrative of the unjuſt Perſecution, and impolitick Expulſion of the SPANISH MOORS; with ſome notable Extracts from other *M. S. S.* relating to the Tyrannical Proceedings of the *Romiſh* Clergy. Price 6 *s.* Sold by *R. Knaplock*, at the *Biſhop's-Head*, in St. *Paul's Church-Yard*; *J. Stagg*, in *Weſtminſter-Hall*; and by the *Author*: Inquire at the *Pine-Apple, New-Street, Covent-Garden.*

N. B. The Editor of this Work (who reſided Twenty Years in *Africa*) has now in Hand, A Compleat Hiſtory of *Algiers*, including all lately publiſhed, in *French*, by Monſieur *Laugier de Taſſy*, of the preſent State of that Government, its Land and Sea Forces, its Politicks, Revenue, Juſtice, Civil and Criminal, *&c.* with many copious and uſeful Additions and Amendments, where that curious and ingenious Gentleman has been defective or miſinformed.

Printed for J. ROBERTS, in *Warwick-Lane*. *Where Complete Setts may be had.*